

# Pima County/Tucson Metropolitan Energy Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2010

### 1. Call to order/Roll Call

Michael Guymon, Chair of the MEC, called the meeting to order at 7:58 a.m. The following members were in attendance: Tina Cook, Grace Evans, Donna Branch Gilby, Michael Guymon, Vivian Harte, Hy Kaplan, Rich Michal, Melissa Miller, Farhad Moghimi, Erika Roush, Richard Rushforth, Denise Smith, Joel Wagner; and ex-officio members, Yves Khawam and Doug Crockett. A quorum was present. Guests included: Vanessa Richter and Sherie Boucher.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not available.

### 3. Announcements

- Ms. Evans: Ward II Solar Meeting, Friday, January 22 at the Ward II office, 7575 E. Speedway. Effort to improve solar strategies in Tucson.
- Mr. Khawam: The Solar America Cities grant will include a Regional Solar Coordinator that will come on board later this year.
- Ms. Evans: Suggested MEC schedule quarterly updates to Mayor & Council based on a conversation she had with Ward II staff.
- Ms. Smith: 2010 REST was approved by ACC two weeks ago. Enhanced incentive, raising the rebate cap for small business up to 100 Kw; this is expected to substantially increase applications. For 2009, 800 new systems annually for PV and solar water heating compared to just an average of 160 annually in the past.
- Mr. Khawam: 5MW PV permit was submitted for a project in Ajo.
- Ms. Branch-Gilby: ADWR meeting discussing the energy it takes to “move” water. Also announcing the completion of the Arizona Water Atlas, showing sources and use of water in both rural area and Active Management Areas (Phoenix to Tucson) The Atlas in 9 volumes is available at [www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/StatewidePlanning/WaterAtlas](http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/StatewidePlanning/WaterAtlas). Ms. Richter noted that water and energy are tied, that pumping water in Arizona accounts for 20% of electrical use.
- Ms. Harte announced the granting of \$5.1 million in Federal stimulus funds to Tucson, \$1 million of which is dedicated to energy audits and residential retrofits. This funding extends for a 3-year period. The program will be managed by Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development under Nicole Urban-Lopez.
- Mr. Michal: TUSD and Amphi school districts are teaching how to do water audits in trainings of 4 sessions at 2 hours each. They are seeking adult volunteers to work with the students.

### 4. Chairman's Report

Mr. Guymon asked that the position of Vice-Chair be added during the Officer Elections to assist with the monthly agendas as well as contact potential speakers. Mr. Guymon also asked that another MEC member step up as Secretary to produce more consistent minutes.

## 5. Call to the Audience

No member of the audience provided comment.

## 6. Officer Elections

Nominations and election of 2010 MEC Chairman – **Mr. Kaplan moved, seconded by Mr. Michal, to nominate Michael Guymon as Chair.** No other nominations were voiced. **Mr. Kaplan moved, seconded by Ms. Branch-Gilby, to close the nominations and elect Mr. Guymon as Chairman.** Motion carried.

Nominations and election of V2010 Vice-Chair – **Ms. Branch-Gilby moved, seconded by Mr. Moghimi, to nominate Grace Evans as Vice-Chair.** No other nominations were voiced. **Mr. Kaplan moved, seconded by Ms. Cook, to close the nominations and elect Ms. Evans as Vice-Chair.** Motion carried.

Nominations and election of 2010 Secretary – **Ms. Evans moved, seconded by Mr. Moghimi, to nominate Donna Branch-Gilby as Secretary.** No other nominations were voiced. **Mr. Michal moved, seconded by Mr. Moghimi, to close the nominations and elect Ms. Branch-Gilby as Secretary.** Motion carried.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Financial Report

In the absence of Mr. Larrivee, Mr. Crockett handed out the 2009/10 Account Summary for January; he indicated a correction to dates – they should read 2009 rather than 2008 and “available funds” under Commitments, should read \$1,790 rather than \$1,910. It was also noted that the billing for Desert Design #256 of \$120 is quarterly (not monthly). MEC has \$1,790.00 remaining in the restricted account that must be spent by June 30, 2010. This is assuming the City receives invoices from the three current commitments that total \$2,475.00. MEC’s unrestricted account balance is \$6,149.23. This amount can be carried over to the next year. Mr. Crockett informed MEC that no funds will be available after July 1, 2010 as the City has cut, in some cases 100%, Outside Agency funding.

Discussion followed as to why MEC’s budget for 2010-11 was cut 100% rather than the 60% which most outside agencies received. Members concluded that MEC and our activities had not been visible or known to City Council. The Chair urged MEC members who have not met with the elected official who appoint them to do so promptly. Mr. Guymon will send a description of projects that MEC has funded over the past 3 years and members can use that information during the visit with their elected official. MEC members committed to met with one of the elected officials before the next MEC meeting as follows:

County Supervisor Ray Carroll – Mr. Kaplan

Sharon Bronson – Ms Harte

Richard Elias – Mr. Moghimi

Ann Day – Ms Roush & Mr. Michal

Chair Ramon Valadez – Ms Harte & Mr. Moghimi

City Council appointees (Smith, Evans, Michal, Harte and Branch-Gilby) will visit their respective Councilors.

b. MEC Website

Ms Evans reported that the Education/Outreach Committee had requested that the website be assigned to it. Discussion followed on the possibility of UA or Pima College students updating MEC's website as a class project. Education/Outreach is assigned to follow up.

Desert Design is currently hosting the MEC site and updating when requested. For this service, MEC pays \$475 annually. Two members reported website hosting can be found for \$100-135/year. Several members requested that the Website Committee meet and give the body a report on results and options for best use of funds and improving the website. Chair will set a date to meet with Evans and Kaplan.

c. Action Committees

*Education/Outreach* had no report, but Ms Branch-Gilby raised the question of MEC playing a role to bring alternative energy information to home and business owners where they are, at their meetings, rather than hope they will seek out programs. Following some discussion, Ms. Evans volunteered to take the lead in developing a strategy for the coming year along with Ms. Smith, Branch-Gilby, Mr. Kaplan, Ms. Richter and Ms. Harte agreed to meet and bring a proposal to the whole body in February. It was noted that this group could partner with not only TEP but also the new regional solar coordinator.

*Resource Book:* Mr. Guymon announced that he will call a meeting of the committee to address adding updated material on Tucson's energy actions and how to manage electronic distribution.

*General/Comprehensive Plan update:* Branch-Gilby reported that County's 2010 target for plan revision has been moved; Mr. Khawam reported that state legislation is being proposed to extend the deadline by 4 or 5 years. Another possible role for the Plan review committee may involve commenting on plan amendment requests; Branch-Gilby will meet with Arlan Colton and deputy to discuss this in February and contact City Planning Chief Albert Elias.

8. Agenda items for Feb. 18 meeting
  - TREO to present their work in recruiting and keeping solar companies for Tucson
  - TUSD Water Audits
9. Adjournment – meeting adjourned by Mr. Guymon at 9:10.

Submitted 2/4/10

by Donna Branch-Gilby, MEC Secretary